

CONTACT MEMO

Date: April 28, 1997
Contact: Keith DeVore, Sacramento County Public Works
Setting: Meeting at Public Works

A meeting was held on April 28, 1997 with Keith DeVore, Chief of the Water Resources Division of Sacramento County, regarding conjunctive use opportunities in Sacramento County. Also attending the meeting were Stein Buer of CALFED, and Carl Hauge and Susan Tatayon of DWR.

The County of Sacramento (County) provides water in seven separate service areas within the unincorporated area to a total of about 17,000 connections; 16,000 of those are residential customers. The Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA) provides water to the "Zone 40" area, which includes the Laguna, Vineyard, and Elk Grove communities. Zone 40 was formed about 10 years ago to bring surface water to the southern part of the County. The long-term master plan for Zone 40 envisions meeting water supply needs through a conjunctive use program, involving both surface water and groundwater.

Neither the County nor SCWA has long-term surface water entitlements. SCWA is in the process of contracting with USBR and SMUD for 37,000 acre-feet of American River water. SCWA has also applied to the SWRCB for excess flows on the American and Sacramento rivers. All of the County's service areas are supplied with groundwater, with the exception of some Zone 40 areas. The County has an agreement with the City of Sacramento for delivery of some surface water to Zone 40. Independent pumpers extract approximately 80,000 acre-feet of groundwater in Sacramento County; these independent pumpers are not represented by any water agency. A JPA has been formed by agencies in the Galt area to address surface water and groundwater issues.

The potential conjunctive use project we discussed would be designed to take advantage of the groundwater depression in south Sacramento County. The center of the depression is located near the intersection of Elk Grove Boulevard and Bruceville roads. Conceptually, surface water would be delivered to spreading basins constructed in the general vicinity of the groundwater depression. The source of the surface water would either be a diversion from the Sacramento River or tertiary treated water from the County regional treatment plant. Currently, about 5 million gallons per day (mgd) is produced at the plant; however, consideration is being given to expanding to 10 mgd, and one of the issues for the plant will be what to do with the additional water. This may be a significant source of water for any conjunctive use project.

Recharge in this area would help mitigate declining groundwater levels and would provide an opportunity to store water for subsequent extraction in dry and critical years.

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Keith expressed considerable interest in this project. A number of issues must be addressed to move this project forward. Initially, it will be necessary to:

- 1) evaluate potential locations and feasibility of the spreading basins
- 2) determine land ownership in the proposed recharge basin areas and secure access to construct and operate the ponds
- 3) identify the source of the water; ideally, tertiary treated water would be used.